

**REMARKS**

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks. Prior to entry of this response, Claims 1-38 were pending in the application, of which Claims 1, 15, 23, and 31 are independent. In the Office Action dated October 27, 2004, the specification was objected to, Claims 1-5, 11, 15-17, 22-26, and 31-34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), and Claims 6-10, 12-14, 18-21, 27-30, and 35-38 were objected to, but were deemed allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Following this response, Claims 1-38 remain in this application. Applicant hereby addresses the Examiner's objections and rejections in turn.

I. Objection to the Specification

In the Office Action dated October 22, 2004, the Examiner objected to the specification due to missing status information of a co-pending application. The specification has been amended, and Applicant respectfully submits that the amendment overcomes this objection and adds no new matter.

II. Rejection of the Claims Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1-5, 11, 15-17, 22-26, and 31-34 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,732,134 ("*Rosenberg*"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Regarding Claim 1, the Examiner stated that *Rosenberg* discloses a floating point operand testing circuit that identifies the status of a floating point operand based

upon data within the operand. (See Office Action, page 2, lines 14-16.) In contrast, Applicant asserts that *Rosenberg* does not support the Examiner's rejection. For example, *Rosenberg* discloses a process for determining a reciprocal of a value. (See col. 7 lines 46-47.) *Rosenberg*'s process calculates a value's reciprocal in four different ways depending upon the value's exponent and whether the value is less than a lower limit. (See FIG. 3.) For example, if the exponent is zero and the value is less than a lower limit, the reciprocal is set to infinity. (See col. 7 lines 54-56; FIG. 3, stage 24.) If the exponent is zero and the value is not less than a lower limit, *Rosenberg*'s process performs some shifting in calculating the reciprocal. (See col. 7 line 66-col. 8, line 4; FIG. 3, stages 34, 36, and 38.) If the exponent is not greater than 125, *Rosenberg*'s process calculates the reciprocal by dividing 1 by the value. (See col. 8 lines 4-7; FIG. 3, stage 40.) And, if the exponent is greater than 125, *Rosenberg*'s process scales the value in calculating the reciprocal. (See col. 7 line 61-65; FIG. 3, stages 28, 30, and 32.) Accordingly, *Rosenberg* does not identify a floating point operand's status based upon data within the operand, rather *Rosenberg* calculates a value's reciprocal in several ways depending upon the value's exponent. Thus, *Rosenberg* does not identify a floating point operand's status, must less identify a floating point operand's status based upon data within the operand.

In light of the above remarks, Applicant asserts that the rejection of Claim 1 is not supported by the cited art and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested. Likewise, Applicant asserts that the rejections of Claims 15, 23, and 31 are also not supported by the cited art and should be withdrawn for the reasons outlined above in response to the rejection of Claim 1.

Dependent Claims 2-5, 11, 16-17, 22, 24-26, and 32-34 are also allowable at least for the reasons above regarding independent Claims 1, 15, 23, and 31, and by virtue of their respective dependencies upon independent Claims 1, 15, 23, and 31. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this rejection of dependent Claims 2-5, 11, 16-17, 22, 24-26, and 32-34.

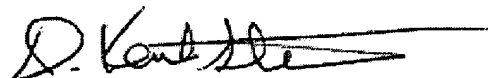
III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant respectfully requests the reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims. The preceding arguments are based only on the arguments in the Office Action, and therefore do not address patentable aspects of the invention that were not addressed by the Examiner in the Office Action. The claims may include other elements that are not shown, taught, or suggested by the cited art. Accordingly, the preceding argument in favor of patentability is advanced without prejudice to other bases of patentability.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,  
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.



Dated: January 27, 2005

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
D. Kent Stier  
Reg. No. 50,640  
(404) 653-6559